

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, and 10-13 are currently active in this case. Claims 5, 11, and 12 have been amended and claims 1-4, 7-9, 14, and 15 have been cancelled by the current amendment. No new matter has been added.

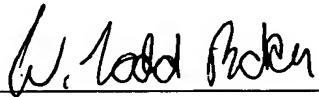
In the outstanding office action, Claims 1 and 14 were objected to; Claims 5-8, 10, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent publication number 2002/0043523 to Fujita et al.; and Claims 1-4 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita et al. in view of Japanese patent application publication No. 2003-297526 to Kishi et al.

Claims 9, 11, and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response to the indication of allowability, Applicants have rewritten Claim 5 to include the limitations of Claim 9. Claims 11 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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